

true that the great Socialistic writers are uniformly anti-religious and that in most instances popular Socialism is accompanied by a vulgar atheism, yet we wish to give the Socialists the benefit of their professions and we are willing to accept their declaration that they put religion entirely out of discussion. They are dealing with man and the hard facts of the world, and their object is to let the soul and the future life take care of themselves, but to see that the human animal is properly generated, properly bred, properly housed, properly fed and properly exercised. On these things hangeth the law and the prophets.

Socialism is the legitimate outcome of the revolution of the sixteenth century. It is really Puritanism carried into the domain of economics. The Puritans were bitten with the craze for regulating everything by law. They believed that, given a certain machinery, they could make men just, sober, pure, honest. When they found out that human nature was too strong for them their only remedy was more law. To this day the country is overrun with societies for reformation of everything in sight, and these societies believe that the best way to carry out their ends is to have a law passed by the legislature commanding people to be moral. It is no lesson to them that law after law remains a failure. Deep down in their hearts they have the Puritan principle that men can be made moral by exterior agencies, and they cast the blame of their failure on the police or the judges or the community, never admitting that their principle itself is false.

Now Socialism starts with the same principle. It believes that men can be made prosperous and happy in mass. To make men happy it declares it is necessary that every man should have sufficient to eat and drink, that he should be comfortably clothed, that he should have sufficient recreation to keep his body in good condition, and sufficient opportunity to improve his mind, that his breeding and the raising of his family should not be left to chance, but that as much care at least should be taken thereof as is taken in the care and rearing of horses; that the family system is as antiquated as the old way of making shoes or homespun garments, and that the private property system is the root of all modern industri-